Amendments to and Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended)   A method for processing media requests from clients in a content distribution system comprising the steps of:

preparing media for delivery via said content distribution system and storing, in a database of a network operation center, delivery information relating to said media comprising at least one of bit rate, media delivery bandwidth and media subscription type;

analyzing request information transmitted from a client via a request for media, said request information comprising media reception bandwidth and connection capability of said client;

analyzing client media reception bandwidth and connection capabilities based on a request for media by said client; and

determining from said request information and said delivery information and substantially in real-time if said client can receive the requested said media within selected system constraints.

2. (original)   A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of denying said request if said client cannot receive the requested media within said selected system constraints.

3. (original)   A method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of responding to a request via at least one of rewriting original metadata associated with said request, using protocol supported responses, and automatically generating metadata associated with said request to perform at least one of denying said client access to the requested media and redirecting said client.

4. (original)   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said request and a response to said request occur within a real-time streaming protocol connection.

5. (currently amended) A method for processing media requests from clients in a content distribution system comprising the steps of:

preparing media for delivery via said content distribution system and storing in a database of a network operating center delivery information relating to which clients can access which media;

analyzing request information transmitted from a client via a request for media, said request information comprising client identification; and

determining from said delivery information and said request information and substantially in real-time if said client is authorized to receive the requested media.

6. (original)   A method as claimed in claim 5, further comprising the step of denying said request if said client is not authorized.

7. (original)   A method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising the step of responding to a request via at least one of rewriting original metadata associated with said request, using protocol supported responses, and automatically generating metadata associated with said request to perform at least one of denying said client access to the requested media and redirecting said client.

8. (original)   A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said request and a response to said request occur within a real-time streaming protocol connection.

9. (currently amended) A method for processing media requests from clients in a content distribution system comprising the steps of:

preparing media for delivery via said content distribution system and storing, in a database of a network operation center, delivery information relating to subscriptions to different types of said media;

analyzing request information transmitted from a client via a request for media, said request information comprising client identification; and

determining from said delivery information and said request information and substantially in real-time if said client is authorized to receive the requested media.

10. (original) A method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising the step of prioritizing fulfillment of said request with respect to other requests depending on the type of said subscription associated with at least one of the requested media and said client.

11. (original) A method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising the step of rewriting metadata associated with said request to deny said client access to the requested media.

12. (original) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said request and a response to said request occur within a real-time streaming protocol connection.

13. (currently amended) A content distribution system comprising:

a plurality of servers from which to obtain streaming media, wherein said streaming media is stored as a media stream in storage devices of each of the plurality of servers;

an operations center for dynamically determining which of said servers are to serve which of a plurality of media streams and for redirecting clients to other said servers when the corresponding one of said servers does not store a requested media stream; and

a transport module operable to analyze communications between a client and one of said servers, which comprise a request for one of said media streams and a response, substantially in real-time to determine if said client can receive said media stream within selected system constraints.

14. (original)   A content distribution system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said communications occur within a real-time streaming protocol connection.

15. (original)   A content distribution system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said request is associated with metadata relating to at least one of client identification, and client bandwidth and connection capacity, said transport module being operable to deny client access to the requested media stream if said client cannot receive the requested media stream within selected system constraints.